

REMARKS

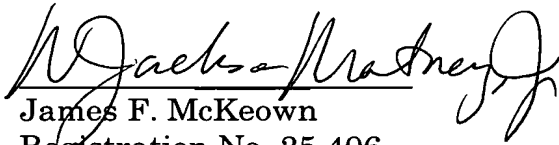
Entry of the amendments to the claims before examination of the application is respectfully requested. These claims patentably define over the art of record.

If there are any questions regarding this Preliminary Amendment or this application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

It is respectfully requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response and shortages in other fees, be charged, or any overpayment in fees be credited, to the Account of Crowell & Moring, L.L.P., Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #381as/50311TR).

Respectfully submitted,

August 9, 2002


James F. McKeown
Registration No. 25,406
W. Jackson Matney, Jr.
Registration No. 39,292

CROWELL & MORING, L.L.P.
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Please cancel claims 32-39 and 52-74.

Please amend claims 40, 44, 45, 48 and 51 as follows:

40. (Amended) A process for treating a fluorine compound-containing gas, comprising: contacting a gas stream containing at least one compound consisting of (a) carbon and fluorine, (b) carbon, hydrogen and fluorine, (c) carbon, hydrogen, oxygen and fluorine, (d) SF₆, and (e) NF₃, with a catalyst comprising alumina as an active component and 7.2 to 49.4 wt.% of nickel oxide, said catalyst containing a composite oxide of [alumina] aluminum and nickel[oxide];

adding steam or a reaction gas containing steam and oxygen to the gas stream; and

effecting a hydrolysis reaction between the at least one compound and the steam, thereby producing a treated gas containing hydrogen fluoride.

44. (Amended) A process according to Claim 40, wherein the catalyst further comprises [22] 15.1 to 40.6% by weight of zinc oxide.

45. (Amended) A process according to Claim 40, wherein the catalyst consists essentially of alumina and nickel oxide and a composite oxide of aluminum and nickel.

48. (Amended) A method of treating a gas containing a perfluoro-compound, comprising:

contacting the gas at a temperature of 400 to 800°C with a catalyst comprising aluminum oxide as an active component and 7.2 to 49.4 wt.% of nickel oxide, said catalyst containing a composite oxide of aluminum and nickel, in the presence of steam, whereby the perfluoro-compound is decomposed by hydrolysis to produce a treated gas containing hydrogen fluoride and acidic compounds; and

contacting the treated gas with water to absorb the hydrogen fluoride and the acidic compounds from the treated gas.

51.(Amended) A process according to Claim 48, wherein the catalyst consists essentially of alumina and nickel oxide and composite oxide of aluminum and nickel.